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stalked over the plains. The Gare Fowl, or Penguin of the north (*Alca impennis*), probably reared its young, fattening them on the Caplin, which has been found fossil in our clay-beds; and the smaller Auks, the Gannet, the Puffin, and Eider Duck filled air and water with their hosts. Through the waves, schools of Narwhales may have disported and waged war with that Bull-dog of the northern seas, the Killer; while the Walrus and Greenland Seal thrust their half-dog, half-human face above the waves, and with angry bark, crowded and jostled each other off the smooth-backed skiers skirting the coast.

Did man gaze upon this scene? Did the forefathers of the Mound Builders or of the ancient Copper Miners of the Great Lakes ply these waters in their kayaks, and build their winter huts of snow amid these arctic scenes?

REVIEWS.

AN INQUIRY INTO THE ZOÖLOGICAL RELATIONS OF THE FIRST DISCOVERED TRACES OF FOSSIL NEUROPTEROUS INSECTS IN NORTH AMERICA; WITH REMARKS ON THE DIFFERENCE OF STRUCTURE IN THE WINGS OF LIVING NEUROPTERA. By *S. H. Scudder*. From the Memoirs of the Boston Society of Natural History. Vol. I. pp. 20, 4to. 1867. With a plate.

The study of the fossil remains of insects is attended with great difficulty. Indeed less is known, perhaps, of the Insect Fauna of former geological periods, than of most other classes of animals, with the exception of the worms and jelly-fishes (*acalephs*). From the fragments of wings, legs, and other hard parts of the insect crust, the fossil entomologist has to reconstruct the insect form of a by-gone period, by comparing these few fragments with their allies of the present day, just as Cuvier restored the quadrupeds of the Paris Basin, delineating their often rude, embryonic forms, from hints afforded simply by pieces of bone and disjointed parts of the skeletons, in some

cases, however, quite complete, discovered by the quarrymen of Montmartre.

The descriptions here given are of the remains of two insects found in the Coal Formation of Morris, Illinois, in company with various coal-plants and amphipod crustaceans, which latter are related to our little beach fleas. These insects were described and figured by Prof. J. D. Dana, in the "American Journal of Science and Arts," in 1864.

Each of the two insects is supposed by the author to form the type of a new family of the Neuroptera, both of which are described and compared with the other families. For such comparisons the author finds the neuration of the wings indispensable as a guide in tracing their affinities, and in limiting the different groups of the Neuroptera generally, of which the Dragon Fly, Forceps-tail, and Ephemera are examples. These two extinct families afford instances of a "synthetic type," a term applied to those animals which combine the characters of other groups, and which are added to their more essential points of differences. An example of the synthetic or comprehensive type is the Garpike, which retains the more essential characters of the fishes, while mimicking the scaly reptiles.

The plates contain partial restorations, one of the right upper wing of *Hemeristia occidentalis*, an insect allied remotely to the Golden-eyed, lace-winged fly, so common in our fields in summer, and the other (*Miamia Bronsoni*) still more distantly, to the gigantic Corydalus, found not uncommonly flying lazily and feebly at twilight in summer.

On the Parallelism between the different stages of Life in the Individual, and those in the entire Group of the Molluscous Order Tetrabranchiata. By *Alpheus Hyatt*. From the Memoirs of the Boston Society of Natural History. Vol. I. Part 2. 1867. pp. 16, 4to.

In this paper, the author makes a comparison between the old age, or period of decline, and the adult forms of allied species of animals, represented at present by the Nautilus and Argonaut. During extreme old age the shell, so to speak, falls into its "second childhood," as stated, though in a more scientific way, by the French naturalist D'Orbigny. This idea is, in the present article, still farther extended to include the collective life of this order of the class of Cephalopods, during the geological periods in which the order came into existence, culminated, and then declined and went out in forms both reminding us of the embryos of the Nautilus, etc., as well as of the earliest generic forms of the order. Thus the different stages of the life of the individual Nautilus or Ammonite accord with the collective life of the entire order.—A. S. P.